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Reflection: Diversity Experience  
  
 I spent about a year and a half attending college at the University of Delaware. In that time, I became friends with a boy a Korean descent, Harrison Kim. Up until then, I had very little interaction with people of foreign descent. While Harrison was primarily raised in the U.S., he still had plenty to say about his home and his parenting, and it became apparent very quickly that I actually knew very little about who he was.  
 I met Harrison through our mutual friend, Don. During these first few weeks, it became apparent that we enjoyed similar things; primarily, watching anime and playing video games. However, when it came to academics, Harrison and I were on completely different pages. I came from an area and an upbringing where academic proficiency was not valued very highly. In comparison, Harrison was brought up (in at least his primary school), he was expected to spend at least 10-12 hours a day studying for school. In comparison, I was ruefully unprepared for the responsibility bestowed upon me by the college, while Harrison was finding difficultly in maintaining his straight-A average. This first comparison not only taught me much about education in general, but more specifically, it taught me a little about Harrison’s upbringing.

Over the weeks I spoke with Harrison, he told me a lot about his home and school life. His parents were very strict, making sure to keep him in check whenever he was home. He felt like he had a lot of free time at school, and never seemed to do much relaxing whenever he went there. Harrison was very highly pressured by his parents to succeed in school, and it was reflected in his eating habits, as well as his interactions with us, his small friend group. The more I knew him, the more I began to understand his personal motives given to him by his heritage. These motives, while stereotypical, truly came to light in my relationship with my friend Harrison, and created a legitimate idea of what it meant to be of eastern decent.  
 These ideas came more to light when I spent my third and last semester in DE living with Harrison. It was during this time I learned the most about him as a person. Though I will not go into much detail, in general, I found out that, like all people, Harrison was not completely defined through his heritage, and I had just has many laughs and good times with Harrison as I did with any of my friends at UD.